



## CASA Program Status Report June 2020

### 1. CASA Data

#### FYTD 2020 CASA Dashboard

Month	# Assigned Advocates (actual)	Assigned Advocate expectation-annual goal	Families served by assigned CASA	Children with assigned CASAs	Active Coaches (actual)	Active Coach Floor 2019 (annual goal)	# cases coached	# Advocates Coached	# Advocates Coached Floor 2019 - annual goal	Advocate sworn	CASA Applications filed*
July	358	426	422	867	65	56	184	161	168	22	28
August	366	426	442	909	65	56	191	170	169	10	34
September	372	426	446	919	67	56	197	185	169	5	20
October	376	426	458	941	67	56	201	178	169	11	33
November	370	426	447	909	65	56	204	176	169	23	25
December	357	426	442	891	62	56	200	170	169	11	18
January	365	426	443	912	65	56	205	178	169	10	16
February	374	426	448	944	66	56	206	187	169	21	15
March	383	426	450	944	69	56	216	189	169	5	15
April	381	426	446	930	70	56	217	180	169	1	19

\*New Data point for FY2020

#### Hours and Miles donated to the CASA Program FY2020

Month	Hours Contributed	Mileage Contributed
July	1,396	15,192
August	1,561	15,675

September	1,658	16,771
October	1,751	20,065
November	1,419	15,166
December	1,194	13,399
January	1,607	16,757
February	1,544	16,932
March	1,079	6,929
April	722	376

## 2. CASA Policy and Procedures review

The CASA Policy and Procedure committee did not meet as scheduled in April 2020. The focus of the committee in this fiscal year continues the need to update policies and procedures for compliance with the new National CASA Association State and Local Standards. Release date for the National CASA/GAL Association Local Program Standards was expected in January 2020, then April 2020 and has now been pushed back to June 2020.

Normally the board would be approving the CASA Program Manual in June. However the delay of the National CASA/GAL Association Local Program standards will delay the release of the Program Manual until the next board meeting in September.

## 3. CASA Program Matters this quarter:

- a. Melissa Loehr, CASA and FCRB Program Coordinator housed in Spencer, resigned effective April 6<sup>th</sup>. Melissa's primary duties were related to FCRB programming, but she did carry a small CASA caseload. Melissa's CASA programming was split between Kathy Fritz (Storm Lake) who took the majority of Melissa's cases, advocates and trainees and Crystal Engstrom (Renwick).
  - i. CAB has determined that it is not fiscally responsible to fill Melissa's position.
    1. Kathy has taken on the FCRB Coordination duties for four boards and this will decrease Kathy's overall CASA target by four advocates.
    2. Kathy has been taken out of Woodbury County CASA work. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup> Amy Hennies (Sioux City) will be responsible for all CASA programming in Woodbury County.
- b. All local CASA programs and the state CASA organization completed their National CASA Annual Survey in March 2020.

- c. Covid-19 has impacted CASA Programming extensively, especially in the area of recruitment and on-boarding.
  - i. Pre-service training has been cancelled since March 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. Recruitment efforts have been put on hold since there is no scheduled pre-service training.
  - iii. Coordinators have been delivering continuing education activities virtually, telephonically and via independent study.
  - iv. Coordinator time has been intended to be used to touch base with all volunteers, get and keep CAMS records up to date, deliver training as needed, etc.
  - v. Volunteers who were deep into the Pre-Service process were allowed to finish training virtually. Some have had virtual swearing-in ceremonies.
  - vi. Volunteers have not been allowed to have in-person visits. Guidance was issued for virtual and telephonic visits with children, their caregivers and families.
- d. CASA Program Staff have participated in training to learn more about the service array that will be offered by DHS with the full implementation of Family First legislation in Iowa. Some areas, specifically southeast Iowa and Polk County have seen dramatic decreases in the number of children adjudicated Child In Need of Assistance and children removed from their homes. The procedure for removals have changed both at DHS and with the court, requiring several levels of intervention before a removal can be requested and another level of scrutiny before a removal can be secured through court. In other areas of the state, CASA case assignments are up as those generally more rural areas have yet to see full implementation of Family First related rules.
- e. Local and State staff have spent a large amount of time considering all facets of CASA training. Three different committees studied different components of training and have made changes or recommendations for change to the leadership team. All committees were spearheaded by local program coordinators.
  - i. Committee 1 worked on changes to Module 6 Pre-Service training to help coordinators deliver the training virtually and allow volunteers to complete their Pre-Service training.
  - ii. Committee 2 conducted a comparison of the National CASA/GAL Association curriculum against the Iowa CASA Curriculum. The committee overwhelmingly recommended to switch to the National CASA Curriculum. Next the committee compared the three versions of NCASA curricula and made a recommendation of which versions to piece together to create training that is geographically relevant to Iowa's needs. The committee is now working on the online components of each of the NCASA curriculum

module and is in the process of receiving Training of Facilitators (TOF) training directly from National CASA.

- iii. Committee 3 addressed strengths and barriers present in our CASA Continuing Education (In-Service) training modules and policy. The committee, working under probable new standards from NCASA of requiring/enforcing 12 hours continuing education annually from all CASA volunteers, made several recommendations to remove barriers and allow volunteers the opportunity to reach this requirement more easily.

#### **4. CASA Program Planning in FY20**

- a. The focus for the year will be on:
  - i. Increasing program capacity through staff development:
    - 1. Coach Engagement Project – Completed
    - 2. Staff Delineation of Duties Project – Work on this project was set to begin in May. Covid-19 restrictions have pushed the project into July or August. Because our CASA Assistants were temporary employees and many had no dedicated funding source, they have no hours scheduled for FY2021. Consequently, this project remains very important to help us align CAMS data duties between the coordinator and their assistant if they have one.
  - ii. Aligning program policies and staff performance with NCASAA standards and expectations.